

THE WESTENDER

Vol. 2, No. 5

JUNE 2022

DominGO! Coming to Farmington Ave. THIS Sunday!

BY TED CARROLL

Thousands are expected to enjoy free music, dance and family fun in the West End, Asylum Hill and Downtown neighborhoods when Hartford's first-ever Open Street event premieres this month.

Patterned after other cities that close off their streets to cars for a day, DominGO! Hartford will take place on Farmington Avenue from 9am to 3pm on Sunday, June 26. From South Whitney Street to Bushnell Park, our beautiful thoroughfare will be teeming with pedestrians and joggers who will share the streets with people traveling by bicycles, scooters, skateboards, wheelchairs and strollers. However you want to "GO," and for how however long you want to "GO," the two-mile DominGO route will offer something for everyone.

If you begin in Bushnell Park, you could consider a "fun run" of various lengths, from .5 mile to a full 5K. When you're ready to slow it down, you could retrace your steps and check out an exhibit at Art Space, enjoy Latin music at the 224 and some family-friendly activities at Immanuel Congregational Church. Then grab some refreshment from one of great ethnic restaurants or from the four food trucks that will hopefully be stationed at the soon to open West Side Square.

If you prefer to visit from the west, you could begin marching down the avenue with Hartford Proud Drum and Dance Corps before you take a short architectural tour of the Sherman Street-Lorraine Street neighborhood. Continue traveling east and you'll have a chance to learn from various non-profit groups about what's in store for kids and families this summer, tour Nook Farm, and then maybe help paint a rainbow mural across the street.

Parking & Buses

For the safety of DominGO! Hartford event go-ers, there will be no parking on Farmington Avenue for DominGO! day and streets surrounding the route will be open to local traffic only from 7 AM - 4 PM. People can still get in and out of their driveways and streets, just not onto Farmington Ave. Buses will parallel existing routes to the extent possible. Buses that normally operate on Farmington Avenue will detour via Whitney, Elizabeth & Asylum.

If you begin your DominGO experience in Asylum Hill, you can enjoy guitarists and bongo players while watching or performing Zumba dancing and Double Dutch. Need some refreshment? Then Janine McMahon and her daughter Mahliia Ellis will show you how you can make your own smoothies made with the freshest fruits and veggies. Or, if you're willing "to share your dream for ice cream," then visit with Matt Rivera of the Dream Support Network. Then, whether you decide to head east or west, be on the lookout for some of Anne Cubberly's awesome Night Fall characters, some of whom plan to gently zip around on electric scooters.

To get more detailed information about the June 26 DominGO on Farmington Avenue, go to <https://www.domingohartford.com/events/farmington-ave>. You will note



DominGO! Activities, Food & Entertainment

ACTIVITIES

West End Hub

- Historic Walking Tour of the West End: 10:30am–11:20am starting at the corner of Sherman and Farmington (presented by the Hartford Preservation Alliance and West End Civic Association)
- Basketball with Active City and The Weekend Basketball Club: 11:00am–2:00pm
- Family-friendly games and activities: All Day

Asylum Hill Hub

- Double Dutch with Active City: 11:00am–2:00pm
- Walking Tour of Farmington Avenue in Asylum Hill: A Dynamic Neighborhood Anchor: 12:00pm–1:00pm starting at Immanuel Congregational Church and Woodland Street
- Family-friendly games and activities: All Day

Bushnell Park Hub

- Soccer with Hartford Athletic and Active City: 10:00am–2:00pm
- Dance Classes with Spectrum in Motion: 1:00pm–2:30pm
- Fun Runs led by the Hartbeat Track Club: 9:00am–12:00pm (Runs of varying distances will be led throughout the morning to explore the open streets!)
- Family-friendly games and activities: All Day
- **Immanuel Congregational Church:** Bounce house, face painting, and a balloon artist: All Day; Community mural painting in their driveway: All Day
- **Trinity Church Parking Lot off Farmington Ave:** 2-Gen Zumba and Bounce Fitness Classes: All Day; Ice Cream from the Dream Support Network: 1:00pm–3:00pm
- **St. Joseph Cathedral:** Tour of the cathedral, hosted by Mike McGary of the Knights of Columbus: 1:00pm–2:00pm

FOOD

Fogata Mexican; South Whitney Pizza & Bar; Tisane Euro-Asian Cafe; Monte Alban Mexican; Ichiban Japanese & Korean; Burger King; KFC; Sisson Ave Wings & Pizza/West End Pizza; City Pizza; China House Chinese; The Half Door; Subway; Domino's Pizza; HFC Chicken and Pizza; Dunkin Donuts; Peking Garden Chinese; NY Chicken & Biscuits

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Traveling the Route

- Hartford Proud: 10:00am–11:00 am (starting in the West End)
- Night Fall Actors and Puppets: 11:00am–2:00pm
- West End Wzbangers: 12:00pm–1:00 pm (starting in the West End)

West End Hub

- Nikita: 11:00am–1:00pm
- Sonia Sol and Friends: 1:00pm–3:00pm

Asylum Hill Hub

- Sinan Bakir: 9:00am–11:00am
- Carlos Hernandez Chavez: 11:00am–1:00pm
- Ed Fast and Congabop: 1:00pm–3:00pm

Bushnell Park Hub

- Nelson Bello and Friends: 11:00am–1:00pm
- **Immanuel Congregational Church:** Friendz World Music: 9:30am–11:30am
- **ArtSpace (555 Asylum Street) [un-art]+5 Art Show:** 9:00am–3:00pm; Royael—Live Body Painting: 1:00pm–3:00pm

that the event will transform our two-mile corridor into a safe public place where residents and visitors move from one place to another to enjoy art, music, dance, athletic activities, visits to historic sites, and delicious food from local merchants.

So, mark your calendars, invite families and friends, and plan to spend at least a part of Sunday, June 26 on the "GO." Then, make early plans to do DominGO on Park Street on July 24 followed by the third and last DominGO of 2022 on August 28 on a route to be determined.

Ted Carroll is chair of the Local Planning Committee for the Farmington Ave. DominGOHartford event.

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SUMMER KICK-OFF WEEKEND!

In addition to DominGO!, several Major Events Happening in Hartford this Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Riverfront Dance Festival

Friday, June 24, 2 – 9 pm, Mortensen Riverfront Plaza: Celebrate movement in all forms at the very first Riverfront Dance Festival, produced by The Hartford Dance Collective. This performance provides a unique opportunity for distinguished dancers and choreographers, students, and community members, to present original works in a free public gathering with a strong emphasis on the inclusion of diverse dance styles. Grab your lawn chair to sit back and enjoy dazzling performances, visual arts vendors, and food trucks; or get up and groove with the interactive performances that surround Mortensen Riverfront Plaza, overlooking the Connecticut River.

Hartford Latino Fest

Saturday, June 25, 12 – 7 pm, Dunkin Donuts Park, 1214 Main Street: The 7th Annual and all NEW will present seven hours of free entertainment. The headline act is Raul Acosta y su Banda. Other performers include Peaches Rodriguez, Tiranico, Brii Mena, Julio Mena, Aky Salsa y su Banda, Enio Gomez y su Ochestra, George Anthony and Steven R., as well as local groups including Hartford Proud Drum, Drill & Dance Team and X-Dance Studio.

CT House Music Festival

Saturday, June 25, 10 AM – 10 PM, Black Lives Matter Mural, Trinity Street: The 5th Annual CT House Music Festival will feature dope dance music from CT's hottest DJs and music producers, all ages,

creeds, colors, nationalities, and religions are welcome! Come as you are and ready to dance!

Keney Park Festival

Saturday, June 25, 9 am – 2pm, Keney Park (Woodland Street and Greenfield Street entrances and Pond House off Edgewood Street: Advocacy To Legacy will celebrate Keney Park with a wide variety of events, including a TikTok dance contest, fishing, arts and crafts, bicycle giveaway and safety, basketball clinic, nutrition & gardening, health & wellness information, COVID vaccines, voter registration, and family games, plus free food and ice cream. Giveaways and cash prizes. Many community organizations will be onsite. The DMV will be onsite from 9-1 for driver's license renewal & state id issuance with proper paperwork (credit or debit card only – NO cash), Basketball Clinic with Greater Hartford Pro-AM.

Global Beatles Day

Saturday, June 25, 7 – 10 pm, Pratt Street: Ever wish you could have attended a Beatles concert? Well now's your chance! Pratt Street is taking it back to the '60s and transforming our cobblestone road into Abbey Road. Get dressed in your grooviest outfit and join us for a celebration of The Beatles. There will be live music from PreFab 4—a Beatles tribute band, food and drink specials, and multiple photo opps of the famous Yellow Submarine and Abbey Road album cover.

Time To Liquidate MIRA

Moving Forward on Waste and Riverfront Development

COMMENTARY BY TOM SWARR

There is a curse that cautions, "May you get what you wished for!" We in Hartford love to hate MIRA, the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority, and wish it gone. Hartford is about to get its wish with the planned closure of the trash incinerator this summer. Municipal solid waste will be delivered to Murphy Road Recycling (still trucks driving to South Meadows) for transfer to out-of-state landfills. Tipping fees will escalate from \$103/ton in 2023 to ~\$123/ton in 2027. Fees would need to be renegotiated for options to extend the contract for two additional five-year terms.

MIRA has filed a closure plan for the South Meadows facility with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). MIRA plans to clean out the equipment, remove hazardous materials and any waste residuals, and secure the buildings and site. While the plan is consistent with state regulations for the closure of waste facilities, it falls far short of the City's vision for an environmentally just redevelopment of the site. The

Hartford City Council endorsed a resolution urging state leaders to act to restore to Hartford this "most valuable acreage" for economic redevelopment.

There are two distinct challenges caused by closure of the trash incinerator; a need to develop a long-term waste management solution that is environmentally sustainable and socially just, and a desire to redevelop the property to grow Hartford's tax base. MIRA has no viable role in addressing either. It is time to liquidate MIRA. All MIRA assets should be prepared for resale in the open market or transfer to a restructured statewide waste authority.

The current waste crisis is much bigger than Hartford or the MIRA member towns. It is a statewide crisis and must be addressed on that level. The continued existence of MIRA is only serving to delay that discussion. The recently created state task force will have to decide if Connecticut is willing to invest in a public option or instead rely on a

LIQUIDATION SALE
GOING OUT
of **BUSINESS**
EVERYTHING MUST GO

Continued on page 8



From the House: Capitol Update

By Matt Ritter
State Representative, 1st District

Residents Can Apply for Child Tax Payments

Residents can now begin applying for the state's new Child Tax Payments that are part of the historic \$600 million in tax cuts contained in our 2023 state budget, which was passed by the legislature last month and signed into law by the Governor.

We created these payments to give families some additional tax relief, many of which who have been impacted by both COVID and recent inflationary trends. The payments are part of comprehensive and groundbreaking investments we are making in our children that include childcare, children's mental health and educational opportunities.

Any Connecticut resident who claimed at least one dependent child under the age of 18 on their 2021 federal income tax return may be eligible to receive a maximum payment of \$250 per child (for up to three children).

The Child Tax Payments are available to residents within the following income guidelines:

Filer Status	Income Threshold
Single or married filing separately	\$100,000 or less
Head of Household	\$169,000 or less
Married filing jointly	\$200,000 or less

Residents with higher incomes may still be eligible for a reduced rebate, so I encourage you to check your eligibility.

Anyone who is interested in seeking a payment must apply to the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services (DRS) with applications closing on July 31. Payments will be distributed beginning in late August.

To apply, visit portal.ct.gov/DRS and click the icon that says "2022 CT Child Tax Rebate."

DRS is also in the process of reaching out to an estimated 300,000 potentially eligible households, and we encourage you to share this information with any parents you know that may qualify.

It may sound trite to say our children are our future, but it is the truth and that is why I will always continue to strive to make Connecticut an even better place to live and raise a family.

As your representative I am here to help and listen to your concerns, so please contact me if I can ever be of any assistance. I can be reached at Matthew.Ritter@cga.ct.gov, by phone at (860) 240-8489, or on Facebook @RepresentativeMattRitter if you have any questions or concerns.



Westend Real Estate Transactions

May 23

59 South Whitney, Tamika Owens and TLOA of CT LLC to Andaleeb Enterprise LLC, \$106,500

May 23

69 Bloomfield Avenue, Triple A Investments LLC to Peter Gonzalez and Miriam Gonzalez, \$360,000

May 31

31 Woodland Street, Unit 8E, Robert B. Lang to Lathasia Leeshabazz \$147,000

June 1

31 Woodland Street, Unit 4A, Mary C. McGovern to Kim Y Curry \$79,900

June 2

31 Woodland Street, Unit 4B, Estate of John Johnson and Barbara Barrett to Mary C. McGovern \$65,000

THE WESTENDER

Published by The Westender, LLC

Publisher & EditorSuzann Beckett
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Art Groups Hold Joint Fundraiser

Alex Giadone of HartBeat Ensemble checks out the costume of Loren Milledge of Nightfall-Hartford at a fundraiser for the two groups (along with Sea Tea Improv) on Sunday, June 5, at Parkville Market. Three teams composed of members from each of the three groups plus audience volunteers created and performed short performances at the fundraiser. (Hart photo)

LEGAL GUN DEALING = STREET DRUG PUSHING

BILL KATZ

The United (really) Disunited States of America is one of the most divided, oppressive countries in the world even as we are the most generous, kind and helpful to others in their time of need. However, we retain the maddening capacity to neglect the safety of our own citizens in spite of the inimitable words found in the Declaration of Independence of our right to, "... life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." At least until money gets in the way then all bets are off.

We are motivated by the prospect of increasing the profit margin. We impose severe restrictions on government regulations so

letter from the NRA from then vice president Wayne LaPierre in 1982. It was addressed to my father and the letter asked him to renew membership. But since my name was the same as my father's, and he had just passed away, I received the letter and I was enraged. My father had been a member from the 1960s when the organization was primarily a hunter's and sportsman's group. Later in 1982, The Hartford Courant published an op-ed I wrote on topic debunking the modern twisted meaning the the 2nd amendment perpetrated by the new and improved activist NRA. Little has changed except that assault-

When the arms industry and gun zealots took over the NRA in the mid 1970s, an organization that once represented hunters and sports clubs, the wealth generated from membership and industry propelled support for republican candidates for office who have acted in accordance with the demands of this industry.

as not to impede such wealth accumulation. Those who most lobby for deregulation are the very entities who benefit from this laissez-faire environment. And without such restrictions, you get a marketplace that offers almost anything for purchase. Of course in this case, I'm referring to guns and the absolute lack of restriction of assault-style weapons whose only purpose is to kill humans in as great a quantity as possible in the shortest possible time. These guns are simple to manufacture and quite profitable to market. There is a similarity between this product and poisonous street drugs except that at least street drugs are not initially designed to automatically kill the user as these weapons do while the bullets spin through the air insuring massive destruction to its intended target. They sure as hell have nothing to do with self-protection.

When the arms industry and gun zealots took over the NRA in the mid 1970s, an organization that once represented hunters and sports clubs, the wealth generated from membership and industry propelled support for republican candidates for office who have acted in accordance with the demands of this industry. I recall once receiving a

style weapons are the cool weapon of choice for those who wish to kill people. Who cares, right, as long as the big bucks keep rolling in.

These issues are always born from the desire to accumulate wealth as it was with the first waves of European migration importing African slaves for the same purpose. I believe these two industries, armament manufacturing and slavery, are more closely related than one might surmise. During pre-Civil War period, guns and the fear of being shot helped keep the institution of slavery prospering until southern states moved to secede. Post civil war and post reconstruction, the conservatives restricted the Union military and as we know, we entered the second war; the 100 years plus war for civil rights. A formal decree to keep Black folks enslaved wasn't necessary anymore as we bastardized (again) the founder's concept of states rights. Only guns and local and state Jim Crow laws were needed to get around that 14th amendment. Today, those conservatives have now fully transformed into republicans (no longer the party of Lincoln or indeed, Teddy Roosevelt.) They

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COMING TO A PARK NEAR YOU!

Project Updates: June 2022

BY DONNA SWARR



Elizabeth Park's famous Rose Garden in full bloom.

No matter what park you're in this summer and fall, you'll see quite a bit of construction happening. Nat Gale, Director of Capital Projects and Operations, Michael Looney, Director of DPW, and Frank Delliripa, City Engineer/Assistant Director provided an update at City Council's June 8th committee meeting

Elizabeth Park

Elizabeth Park has three projects in various stages; the Conservancy Greenhouses, Phelan Basketball Court, East Lawn Master Plan, and East Lawn Construction. The \$1.5million funding for the greenhouses will come from a state bond, and will begin in the winter of 2023. The East Lawn Master Plan will begin in the winter of 2023, with \$350,000 provided by DECD and state bonding. The East lawn master plan construction is on hold until the design effort has been concluded. The Phelan Basketball Court will start construction this fall with \$150,000 coming from DECD and state bonding.

Goodwin Park

Golf Course has two projects: the clubhouse and irrigation. The clubhouse area is in the design phase and will begin this fall, with \$1.7million from the general fund. The design work will include concepts for an expanded club house, new cart paths, drainage improvements, and leveling the practice green. Other considerations are ADA access to the driving range, increased parking and lighting, and an upgrade to the golf cart barn for electric carts. Irrigation for the golf course is also a multi-phased project. The past 2 years the pond in the park has been dredged and prepared to provide the water for the course; MDC water will no longer be required; estimated cost \$4,1million funded by the Hartford Park Trust, general fund, and state funds. A new entrance and lighting will be installed along Maple Avenue, expected to begin in the winter of 2023, with \$2million in funding has been allocated, the funding from DEEP and state bonding.

Pope Park

Pope Park projects include the Bankside Grove, T-Ball Field, Baby Pope/Pope Park Highway, and other improvements. The T-ball field is under construction, and the contractor will be installing two batting cages, scheduled to be completed this summer; funding is \$544,217. The Bankside Grove project is in the design phase, scheduled to be completed this fall, and \$400,000 of funding for this project will come from the general fund. It will include a trail that begins on Laurel Street and ends at the new roundabout. Friends of Pope Park would like to explore additional safety features and relocate the brownstone circle, and The Pope Park Designated Fund is being considered for additional fund. Improvements and funding for Baby Pope and Pope Park Highway are being discussed as to the splash pad and a pedestrian loop connecting the Bankside Grove. Improvements around the Pope Park Highway include additional

features to enhance the sense of place. \$7.5million will come from Connecticut State bonding.

Bushnell Park

Bushnell Park has four projects; sidewalks and lighting on the east and west sides, the pond, and the pump house. The east side sidewalk and lighting project is under construction and will be completed this summer. The Park Trust Fund is the funding it for \$2,666,838. The west side sidewalk and lighting project is under construction and will be completed in the Fall of 2024. The total cost is projected at \$1-1.7million, \$800,000 of that from the general fund. An engineering consultant has been begun design of pond, and will include the option to move the skating rink to the pond; estimate \$2-3million funding from The Hartford Park Trust Fund and the city's general fund. Lastly, the Pump House Gallery is under construction and is expected to be completed this summer. Estimates to replacing the concrete slab and underground piping outside will be sought, projected at \$200,000.

Colt Park

Colt Park is nearing the end of the projects started three years ago. The shade structure of the Clemente bleachers and a pavilion on the north side of the park were completed in May. A futsal court will replace the decrepit skating rink, and construction will begin this fall with \$717,500 from the general fund. A project for a handicap entrance on the west side of the park to inhibit ATVs and other vehicles from entering the athletic fields area, and cleaning up vegetation along Wawarme Avenue is planned for this fall; the \$500,000 funding will come from the general fund.

Keney Park

The Keney Park design of park improvement projects is in process, and slated to be completed this fall. \$1million from the general fund will be used to replace deteriorated amenities and drainage in Woodland Street parking lot. Estimated total construction cost is projected to be \$485,000. The golf course is receiving state bond funding to support a number of projects. Priority projects include a continuous paved golf cart path, expanding the size of the maintenance building foundation and fixing the clubhouse basement water leak issues.

Forster Park

Forster Park will finally get the park improvements that the southwest neighborhood has been pleading for. Years ago a car was burned on top of the basketball court, ruining it. Since then other amenities have experienced a lot of wear and tear. Resident and Park and Recreation Advisory Commissioner, Colin Billing advocated relentlessly for this project. It's in the bid and award phase, and is expected to be completed this fall, estimated cost \$900,000. A new splash pad, upgrades to the existing playscape and flexipave, upgrades to the basketball court, picnic area, and small amphitheater. All walkways will be redone, a gazebo will be added along with plantings and seating around the park. A new fence will be installed around the park and parking area.

School & Youth News

Hartford Swimming Pools Aquatics Schedule

Colt Park's pool and splash pad opened early, Saturday, June 18th and will close on August 28th. The hours are Sunday – Saturday 12:00pm – 5:45pm; the pool area is locked at 6 pm. There will be a special event at the Dog Days of Summer "Pooch Plunge" August 14th! The Colt Park Foundation is advising people to park for the pool along Stonington Street. There is a new entrance, and it is the shortest path to the pool gate. There will be times that the Wethersfield Avenue gate will be closed to ensure that the park is safe. Too many vehicles in the park creates a dangerous environment for families and other visitors.

Goodwin and Keney pools will open on Saturday, July 2nd and will close on August 13th. Pope Park pool will open on Saturday, July 2nd and will close on August 28th. At Pope Park pool there will be

parent/infant swim lessons. The dates and times as well as a second will be announced on hartfordct.myrec.com.



The Summer Aquatics Programs are as follows: Monday-Friday 12:00pm to 12:45pm Swim Lesson/Water Safety/Lap Swim, 1:00pm to 4:30pm Youth Recreational Swim, and 5:00pm to 5:45pm Adult Recreational Swim. On the weekends from 12:00pm to 5:30pm there will be Family Swim.

All programs are subject to change depending on public demand, group registrations, staff coverage, and/or any specialized programming requested at a particular site. If there is low enrollment for any session of swim lessons, the schedule will revert to Family Swim. If a heat wave is declared, pool schedule modified to Family Swim for all time slots. To sign up for lessons, go to hartfordct.myrec.com.

HPHS Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees Announced

The Hartford Public Athletic Hall of Fame recently announced its 2022 Induction Class. The class is highlighted by two former major leaguers, a former NFL player, an Olympian, a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, and the CEO of a large corporation.

The class includes Joe Amaio, soccer coach; Martin Aroian, 1938, tennis; MuDarris Jihad, 1973, football, basketball, track; Butch Ciccaglione, 1968, baseball; Ed Cotter, 1920, baseball; Courtney Dunstan, 1994, basketball; Helen Greene, cheerleading coach; Tony Harrington, 1973, wrestling, football; Chester Kobialka, 1941, cross country; Erwin "Terry" McKinney, 1976, baseball and basketball; Ken McBride, 1961, track; Warren Morrow, 1939, cross country; Marvin Riley, 1992, football, basketball; Betsy Ruiz, 1991, basketball; Joe Smith, 1916, multi sports; Charlie Vann, 1970, track; Joe Wirzbicki, 1974, swimming;

Tyrone White, 1993, basketball; George Woodend, 1939, baseball; Donkor Hardie, 2003, football; Orlando Rosa, 1987, wrestling;

The class includes five Lifetime Achievement awardees. Les

Payne, 1958, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist;

Paul McBride 1964, businessman;

Hank Lodge 1962, HOF director;

Paul Knight, 1984, basketball;

Charlotte Gemmell, HOF director, teacher;

Also, the 1994 football

team is being inducted. They defeated Southington 22-7 for the Class LL State Championship.

The induction ceremony is set for Sunday October 9th at the Chowder Pot restaurant in Hartford from 1-5. The Hall also has its yearly golf outing Saturday September 17th at Goodwin Park. Please visit the Hall website for more information at www.hph-sathletichof.com or email Mike Forrest at forrest.mike.r@gmail.com.



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2022 Talcott Mountain Academy Graduates

- Graciela Cazenave
- Aarna Panigrahi
- Sia Reddy
- Meagan Rose
- Vanessa Slepchin
- Elias Starr
- Samuel Wu

Sign Up Now for Summer Youth Programs

Hartford Stage Summer Camp

There's still time to register! Hartford Stage's summer camp returns in July with in-person programs for ages 5-18. Choose from Teen Musical (Ages 14-18) featuring Legally Blonde; Youth Ensemble (Ages 10-15) featuring Matilda, Jr.; Junior Troupe (Ages 8-11) featuring Annie Kids; and Children's Cast (Ages 5-8)! Learn more at www.hartfordstage.org/summer-studio

Band Camp

Sign up for Band Camp, July 18th, Southend Boys and Girls Club, 120 Ledyard St., Registration 9:30 am, 10:00 am camp begins. Featuring the Trojan Explosion Marching Band from Virginia State University. For more information contact Kyle Anderson, 860-830-3035,

Bikes & More

Sign up for Bikes and More Summer Camp, a 2-week summer day camp, four days each week for ages 9 to 14. The camp includes bicycle safety classes, basic bike mechanics, and other fun and connecting team building activities. It is limited to 16 participants per session. You must be registered to participate by the adult parent or guardian in your life. Register and pay only \$25 for the two-week session. You can request a sponsorship if needed. Payment can be made by cash or check on the first day of camp. Location: 95-97 Park St., Hartford. If you need this information in Spanish, please call us at 860-247-3227. (Si necesita esta información en español, llámenos al 860-247-3227.) To register go to, <https://tinyurl.com/2dw2x87d>.

Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program

Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program (SYELP) pre-application period is now open. SYELP is a youth employment program, connecting Connecticut youth living in the North Central Region between the ages of 14 and 24 with career exploration opportunities and paid work experience each summer. Participants have the opportunity to explore their interests and career pathways, develop workplace skills and engage in learning experiences that help in developing their social, civic and leadership skills. By participating in structured project and work-based opportunities, Connecticut youth are better prepared for careers of the future. Apply Today: <https://cwp.webauthor.com/>

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Baked Stuffed Eggplant: with Beef

Baked Stuffed Eggplant: Vegetarian Style

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<p>Tabouli Salad Superb!</p>	<p>Mediterranean Eggplant Salad Delightful!</p>	<p>Chicken Curry Salad TASTY!</p>
<p>Baba Ghanoush with Pita</p>	<p>Baked Kibbee Large Portion</p>	<p>Quinoa Salad Refreshing!</p>
<p>Mujaddara Rice, Lentils & Sauteed Onions</p>	<p>Chick Pea Salad Olive Oil, Lemon</p>	<p>Baklava, Bird's Nest & More Heavenly!</p>

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School & Youth News



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



Watkinson School Class of 2022 Graduates

Lauren C. Besso
Morgan Marie Birney
Liliana R. Birrell
Tessa Pearl Brown
Andreas Edward Calabro
Jack George Castineiras
Julian Andres Chaparro
Ran Chen
Jayda Chanelle Clarke
Isabella Taylor Crespo
De'Geal Jordan Elizabeth Davis

David Hogan Doyle
William St. Christopher Ellis
William Anderson Furneaux
Abigail Thurston Gallagher
Megan Rose Goldfarb
Elijah Andrew Harris
Mason Sarkis Hernandez
Brett Anders Hodas
Joseph Franklin Hoffman
Jake Roselle Hoyt
David Michael Kalinowski

Elijah Deniel Walker King
Cooper Harding Limric
Victoria Kay Medwinter
Charlotte Knight Miller
Amaya McKenzie Mitchell-Howard
Lily Carolena Onderdonk
Evan Thomas Parker
Andrew John Pericat
Ayana Irene Pierre-Maxwell
Gio Plocharczyk

Hailey Jordan Pumiglia
Evan Jack Rees
Benjamin James Rickevicius
Adam Michael Saviano
Sadie Grace Schmitz
Anika Sharma
Paw E. Shee
John Marcel Siciliano
Lamiah Sakina Siddiq
Clay Houghton Sinclair
Olivia Jasmine Taylor

Noemí Keila Villaparedes Ley
Zhe (Alina) Wang
Madelyn Ann Wisniewski
Watkinson Academy (PG year)
Graduates
Mason Arthur Battle
Cillian James Fazzina
Camari James
Jarrell Marquis Petteway
Jaden Lavahn Walker

Classical Magnet School 2022 Graduates:

Manuel Acheampong
Ashley Alcock*
David Arce
Shamyla Katelyn Boulware
McKnight
Rachel S. Bryan
Jordan A. Chambers *+
Ibrahim A. Chaudhary
Emeka D. Chukwurah
Michael A. Crespo
Julia Marcely Tome Dos Santos

Kyla J. Doyle*+
Mohammed Eisa
Lorielis Figueroa
Reilly Kate Fournier *+ Fox
Scholar
T'Shaun Gibbons
Nahshon T. Gibson *
Diana Carolina Gomez Puccini*+
Ivymar Karina Gonzalez
Daniel Luis Guzman
Sajit Hasan

Meschac Z. Hercules
Yalines Zoe Herrera
Chelsea S. Jackson*
Jada Jahnay Lindsey
Domenic J. Madeley
Maurice Omar McDonald*+
Tiana A. McFadden
Lizangely Milagros Munoz
Davion Murray
Ta'Naya L. Neal
Ashley Louise Nelson*+

Ernestina Adwoa Dansoa Nyarko
Janayah Ortiz*
Josiah L. Perez-Henry*+ Fox
Scholar
Michelle S. Quinn
Elle Ramos*
Jayden Rivera
Jadeliz Robles
Trinity Stewart*
Riley Madison Taylor*
Rogelito Tejada

Georgianne Elizabeth Ten Eyck+
Jonathan Aidan Tulier*
Ignacio Valerio-Santiago
Gisell Xiomara Vasquez*
Darien Armand Willer
Chrishaun Woodard
Erickah M. Wright*
Keshann C. Wright
**Indicates membership in National Honor Society. +Indicates Hartford Promise Scholar Promise Recipient*

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Emma Louise Avery
Saman Azimi
Lillianna Marie Baczeski
Daniel Robert Barrack
Morgen Leigh Barroso
Jeffrey Matthew Beck
Olivia Leigh Benson
Marc George Bernatchez
Priyal Bhargava
Abigail Louise Bicknell
Sara Faith Bigman
Tyson James Blackburn
David Milton Block
Abby Booth
Joan Nettleton Bosma
Alexandra Bostick
James Broderick
Amy Catherine Brown
Meghan Frances Buckley
Christian Peter Burr
Giacomo A. Cabrera
Thomas Robert Carissimi
Sarah Cherfan
Ryan Patrick Coleman
Kristoph John Condos
Joseph Richard Conte III
Patrick Matthew Conway
Collin Sanderson Cowdery
Victoria Rose Damore
Isabella De Lisi
Semir Raif Dervisi
Sharnjit Kaur Dhaliwal
Taylor Marie Dichello
Sarah Lynn Dobson
Patrick John Dudley
James Francis Dunigan IV
Robert Anthony Eagan
Gregory Scott Estabrooks
Emilio A. Estrella Terón
Liana Feinn
Carlene Libby Felix
Kaitlin Rose Fitzgerald
Mariah Isabel Fleming
Matthew John Fratamico
Devon Hart Fray
Aleksandr Jack Friedman

Daisy Anna Garrett
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Jake Ryan Gawlak
Sydney Taylor Geer
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Ahmir Hassan Glover
Margaret Ann Goggins
Grant Christian Gourley
Brayson Stephen Grant
Margaret Ellen Green
Anand Oliver Gupta
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Lindsey Elizabeth Heiman
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Erin Christine Howard
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Henry Purtill
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Peter Luke Reynolds
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Ellen Marie Roberts
Shane Anthony Russell
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Tess Elizabeth Shaw
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Isabelle Clare Taboada
Jeffery Allen Temple Jr.
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Nicole Marie Terrizzi
Jessica Faye Thomas
Hallie Elizabeth Tingstad
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Philip Cole von Richthofen
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Jiexuan Wang

Hanna Mary Webb
William J. Weishaupt
Matthew Ryan White
Abigail Rose Willauer
Amanda Seravalli Winer
Colin Thomas Wrinn
Sarah Elizabeth Wylie
Zijie Yang
Geoffrey Booker Young
Wojciech Zak
Adam Tyler Zwick
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Jean-Flavien Fame Essone
Arthur Christian Lefevre
Philip Steitz
Governance, Risk Management, and Compliance
John Joseph Neumon
Human Rights and Social Justice
Lupita Amaro Jimenez
Oriana Gabriela Araque Bueno
Amelie Elisabeth Becher
Maryam M.K. Bitar
David Mauritius Owzar
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Insurance Law
Naifah Lahhab Alanazi
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Daniel Gordon Barry
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Kathryn Housh Shirley
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Paloma Lopes Bomtempo Pena
Patricia Torres Barreto Costa
Carvalho
Dariela Garcia
Sungho Hong

Ikhtiyar Huseynov
Anastasiia Besaryonivna Imedidze
Sophia Franziska Keck
Marie Elisabeth Lenz
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Jan Mikic
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Taeinn Joseph Chang
Ju Yop Ham
Jibin Jeon
Young Joon Joo
June Kim
Jintack Lee
Seung Hwan Oh
Chan Woo Park
Ji Young Seo
Dahee Yu

Riverfront Recapture Fitness Classes Running Now Through August

Why exercise in a dreary old gym when you can get in shape alongside on the country's most beautiful rivers?" Riverfront Recapture is offering eight different weekly fitness classes this summer and it all starts next week. Suggested donation: \$5; proceeds will be used to help us continue to offer free classes like this one. Donate at the class, on venmo @riverfrontrecapture, or at <https://riverfront.org/donate/>

Yoga Sculpt



Mondays, June 6 – August 29, 6 – 7 pm, Mortensen Riverfront Plaza, Hartford

Get your heart pumping and your blood flowing in our new class from Hartford Sweat. This class combines Vinyasa-style yoga, light cardio, and resistance with weights and bands to tone and

strengthen.

WIP Into Shape



Tuesdays, June 7 – August 30, 6 – 7 pm, Mortensen Riverfront Plaza, Hartford

Join WIP Fitness every Tuesday night on the plaza for free, motivating workouts. Their instructors will show you how to build muscle in this anything but traditional boot camp style class using bands, body weight, and the plaza itself. This class is accessible to all levels. Bring water (definitely) and a yoga mat (optional). Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the start of class to check-in.

Yoga Flow on the River

Wednesdays, June 8 – August 31, 6 – 7 pm, Mortensen

Riverfront Plaza, Hartford

Stretch and strengthen your body and mind in this class designed to link movement with breath, allowing you to unwind and connect. This class is a perfect blend of all-levels yoga to music that will clear your mind, exercise, and strengthen your body through a series of smooth and calming postures. The shaded area and scenic backdrop make this a perfect setting for a one-hour yoga practice that will relax and rejuvenate you for the week.

Moves & Grooves



Wednesdays, June 8 – August 31, 6 – 7 pm, Riverside Park, Hartford

Dive into exploring individual movement expression through guided improvisation, technique, conditioning, and choreography with the Hartford Dance Collective. This class emphasizes

whole-body awareness, grounding, suspension, opposition, and weight, using nature as inspiration. This class is open to all levels.

River Zumba



Thursdays, June 9 – August 25, 6 – 7 pm, Mortensen Riverfront Plaza, Hartford

Dance, dance, dance the day away at lower Mortensen Riverfront Plaza in this one-hour heart-pumping Zumba workout led by instructors from Hartford Sweat.

Qi Gong



Fridays, June 10 – August 26, 6 – 7 pm, Riverside Park, Hartford

Learn the basics of Qi Gong with Master Malee Khov. Qi Gong combines gentle stretching, ener-

gy-activating exercises, and simple flowing movements for strength for a complete workout of the body and the mind.

Intro To Dance



Saturdays, June 11 – August 27, 9 – 10 am, Great River Park, East Hartford

This introductory workshop from the Hartford Dance Collective is specially designed for adults who have a passion and desire to learn dance but have no prior dance experience. The classes provide a welcoming and friendly environment, with individualized instruction and attention, exposing you to dance's core fundamentals in a relaxed and comfortable class setting.

Tai Chi

Saturdays, June 11 – August 27, 10:30 – 11:30 am, Riverside Park, Hartford

Looking for a gentler, more relaxing, spiritually fulfilling form of exercise? Our free tai-chi classes, taught by Master Malee Khov will help to stretch and strengthen the mind and body in a serene environment through a beautiful series of easy-to-learn movements combined with breathing and self-acupressure.

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Rowing Program for Veterans

Are you a veteran or military service member interested in rowing or kayaking? Now you can try both for free thanks to Riverfront Recapture's partnership with Connecticut Adaptive Rowing Program (CARP) and Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital. This partnership provides military service members and veterans with physical disabilities—including PTSD and/or visual impairments—the opportunity to stay active and enhance their sense of wellbeing through an enjoyable leisure activity in a stunning outdoor setting. Classes will be offered on June 25, July 9, July 23, August 6, August 20, September 3 & September 17. Classes are free of charge but registration is required. For more information please contact Paige McCullough-Casciano at 860-714-2421 or email pmccullo@TrinityHealthOfNE.org.

EXTRA! EXTRA! Westender Seeks Delivery Workers!

The Westender is seeking local residents who would be able to deliver the paper on the 3rd Thursdays and Fridays of the month. Rates negotiable. For more information, Email to: TheWestenderLLC@gmail.com



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2022 Love Your Block Grant Recipients Announced

More than \$225,000 in grants to support 21 projects in 15 different neighborhoods

The City of Hartford and the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving recently announced this year's recipients of the Love Your Block grant, awarded to projects proposed by community members to beautify Hartford neighborhoods. This latest round of Love Your Block (LYB) grants committed more than \$225,000, funding 21 projects in 15 different neighborhoods.

This year's LYB grant offered a LYB Resident Grant and a LYB Community Grant. The LYB resident grant continue the work of the original LYB program, awarding grants to resident-led projects of \$2,500 or less. Resident groups were also able to team up with non-profit organizations for the LYB Community Grant, which offered up to \$25,000 in funding. In total, 9 resident grants and 12 community grants were awarded.

Grant applications were open from Monday, February 14th to Monday, March 7th, and ideas were reviewed by a panel of Hartford residents. The City and the Hartford Foundation look forward to continuing to build on the successful Love Your Block program in the years ahead.

"We are thrilled to support more than twenty community-led beautification projects, from curbside gardens in the West End to traffic diverters in Southwest to cultural flags and murals on Greenwood and Grace Street," said Mayor Bronin. "The Love Your Block program gives residents the resources to make the changes they want to see on their own block, in their own neighborhood — whether it's the small resident projects, where a couple thousand dollars can make the difference, or whether it's the larger community grants."

This round of Love Your Block Community Grants includes:

- Bulkeley High School
- Charter Oak Temple Restoration Association, Inc.
- Free Center
- Hartford Health Initiative, Inc.
- Hartford Public Schools/City of Hartford
- Keney Park Sustainability Project Inc.
- KNOX, Inc.
- Mount Bethel Church of God EHT, Inc.
- Mutual Housing Association of Greater Hartford, Inc.
- Real Art Ways, Inc.
- Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance, Inc. (SINA)
- The iQuilt Partnership
- Asylum Hill Residents
- Parkville Care Center Residents

This round of \$2,500 Love Your Block Resident Grants being administered by Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (SINA) and Knox Inc. includes:

- New Mount Moriah Baptist Church
- Southwest and Behind the Rocks NRZ
- West End Residents
- Colt Park Foundation
- Friends of Zion Hill Cemetery
- Urban Hope Refuge Church
- Maple Avenue Revitalization Group (MARG) NRZ

The Love Your Block grant program is a component of Love Hartford, a broader initiative led by the City of Hartford, the Hartford Foundation, and other partners to help beautify Hartford neighborhoods and encourage community resiliency. The program brings together city leaders and citizens to revitalize neighborhoods one block at a time. It began when Hartford was one of ten cities chosen by Cities of Service to receive \$25,000 in funding over two years (2019-2020) and two AmeriCorps VISTAs. Other activities supported through the initiative include Love Hartford week, the Neighborhood Ambassadors Program, and the annual Hartford Urban Gardeners Awards (HUGS) convened by KNOX, Inc.

"The Hartford Foundation is excited to continue our collaboration with the City and many others on the Love Your Block program," said Hartford Foundation President and CEO Jay Williams. "These 21 projects arise from the ideas and action of residents, Neighborhood Revitalization Zones, faith groups, nonprofits and other stakeholders with deep roots, knowledge, and passion for improving the City's neighborhoods. We know that neighborhood residents are the closest to the issues and the best to identify areas to target for beautification activities and the Love Your Block grant program is intended to put them in the driver's seat and empower them to enhance their community."

Hartford Farmers Markets



MONDAYS

KNOX Farmers Market, 75 Laurel Street, 11:00AM – 2:00PM, Jun 27 – Oct 31

TUESDAYS

West End Farmers Market, 385 Farmington Avenue, 4:00 – 7:00PM from Jun 7 - Sep 27; 3:00 - 6:00PM from Oct 4 -25. Offers special savings for SNAP/EBT participants!

WEDNESDAYS

North End Farmers Market, 80 Coventry Street, 9:00AM – 12:00PM from Jun 29 – Oct 26. Offers special savings for SNAP/EBT participants!

Homestead Farmers Market, 22 Homestead Avenue 11:00AM – 4:00PM from Jun 22 – Oct 12 Offers special savings for SNAP/EBT participants!

THURSDAYS

Broad Street Farmers Market, 539 Broad Street, 11:00AM – 2:00PM from Jun 2 – Oct 27. Offers special savings for SNAP/EBT participants!

FRIDAYS

Old State House Farmers Market, 800 Main Street, 10:00AM – 2:00PM from Jul 1 – Oct 28

SATURDAYS

Promise Zone Community Farmers Market, 425 Woodland Street. 10:00AM – 1:00PM from Jul 2 - Oct 29

All markets accept SNAP/EBT, WIC farmers market checks & Seniorfarmers market checks!

Tax Rebate for Connecticut Parents Available

The 2022 CT Child Tax Rebate, which was recently authorized by the Connecticut General Assembly, is a one-time rebate that is intended to help Connecticut families with children.

You may be eligible for a child tax rebate of up to a maximum of \$750 (\$250 per child, up to three children) if you meet all of the following requirements:

- You must be a resident of Connecticut;
- You must have claimed at least one child as a dependent on your 2021 federal income tax return who was 18 years of age or younger; and
- You must meet certain income thresholds.

To assist you in determining if you qualify for a child tax rebate, the Department of Revenue Services has developed an application, which will be available through July 31, 2022. To get started, go to: <https://egov.ct.gov/>

[drschildrebateform/](https://egov.ct.gov/drschildrebateform/)

To complete the application, you will need the following information:

- Your federal adjusted gross income from your 2021 federal income tax return;
- Your filing status from your 2021 federal income tax return; and
- The full name, date of birth, age as of December 31, 2021, social security number, and relationship to you of each child who was 18 years of age or younger (up to a maximum of three) you claimed as a dependent on your 2021 federal income tax return.

If you have any questions concerning the 2022 Child Tax Rebate, we encourage you to visit the Department's website at portal.ct.gov/DRS or call the Department, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 860-297-5999.

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BANKRUPTCY

Now that the pandemic is reaching its end, you may find yourself behind on your mortgage or bills. Don't play ostrich - we may be able to help you save your home. Call us for more information

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Dancing in the Streets!

An estimated 600 people turned out on Pratt Street in Downtown Hartford Friday night for the second installment of the Hartford Business Improvement District's Salsa Socials series, including Hartford Police Lieutenant Marisol Rodriguez-Velez and Robert McGrath (above). The three remain in Salsa Socials will be held from 5-8 pm on Friday, July 8, Friday, August 19 and Friday, September 9. (Hart photos)

MIRA

Continued from page 2

privatized system. But one thing is clear: Hartford is adamantly opposed to any further waste treatment on the MIRA site. Another thing that is clear is any state policy that seeks private investment in waste infrastructure will need to eliminate any requirement that a public authority must "retain overall supervision and control of the business" as currently stipulated in Connecticut General Statutes Section 22a-268.

Economic development of the site will be complex given the level of coal ash contamination. MIRA has no role or responsibility for remediation of contamination which preceded their occupation of the site. The closure plan is only required to address the potential risks caused by their activities. The authority is explicitly forbidden from demolishing the building by the environmental land use restrictions (ELURs). However, if the

goal is to liquidate MIRA, then it would make sense to remove all waste equipment for any potential salvage value--even if it is sold as metal scrap. Given that any redevelopment will take 10 to 20 years, it might make sense to evaluate potential uses of the buildings in the interim. (Perhaps an incubator to kickstart manufacturers that could process materials recovered from our waste into more valuable materials, fuels, and products?)

The real environmental risks of the site result from the underlying layer of coal ash, and the flow of surface and ground water through the site. Groundwater does leak into the river. During seasonal floods, river water can flow back into the site. Rising water levels with climate change may extend the times of back flow. Assuring effective measures to protect the water quality of the Connecticut River is the responsibility of DEEP – not a MIRA decision. Hartford residents deserve transparent communications during closure to earn their trust of agency decisions.

There will need to be effective state leadership to resolve our waste crisis and to develop an environmentally just solution for the South Meadows. But be careful what you wish for – you might get it.

Katz Commentary

Continued from page 3

twist the 2nd amendment around. "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to bear arms..." means exactly what it says and no more. Any 7th grade student in an American history class would understand this meaning referring to state reserves not individual rights. The gun industry has perpetuated these lies for decades in order to appease their appetites for profit. Without the wealth generated from gun sales over the blood of children and any other collateral victims, republicans today or Dixiecrats from yesteryear, would not have these assault weapons in the marketplace. It's only about money, nothing more, well maybe also the residual of racial oppression. Just think about who are the most rabid believers of "guns for the good guys."

We may ask ourselves why are there so many mass murders today. My only answer is that it's the cool thing to do for people who spend their time on social media commiserating in hate pods. Since they can do it, they will do it. And assault-style weapons are available to easily accomplish their destructive ends. School shootings, hospitals, churches, shopping malls, it doesn't matter. These environments provides perfect soft targets. We have only to reflect that the Puritans had their own version of similar aberrant behavior as teens accused their adult neighbors of witchcraft. A good ole hanging or burning at the stake was the frequent outcome.

I am compelled to protest and to picket a regional gun store in my community and I urge everyone to do the same. All power is local we can make a difference if we act. And if we don't act, we allow those who do act to act against us.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have a wedding or engagement coming up? Did your son or daughter make the honor roll? Did you open a business or get a promotion? Do you want to write a letter to the editor on an issue that's important to you? Do you have a poem you'd love to see published? Then if you live or work in Hartford's Westend neighborhood, you're in luck! Submit your item to *The Westender* newspaper and before you know it, it'll be in print for everyone to see.



To submit your item, please email to: TheWestenderLLC@gmail.com

How would you spend **\$56,000** to improve your neighborhood?

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SCAN



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